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A Masterpiece from Judge McKenna.

The Attorney-General's formal opinion concerning section 22 of the Dingley act must not be regarded as a fair specimen of his powers of thought and statement. That would be unjust to Judge McKenna, who may be able to reason clearly and to write lucidly when circumstances seem to him to require systematic ratiocination and intelligible expression. Nobody should hastily rate the new Attorney-General as a middlehead, merely on the strength of his first important opinion.

Read this opinion through forwards, and then read it through backwards; read it again, skipping alternate paragraphs, and finally zigzag back from finish to beginning, and you will get each time the same idea, namely, that the Attorney-General found the job and the responsibility too big for him and preferred to enwrap himself in a mantle of obscurity.

It is, in fact, a masterpiece in its way, if you take it as an ingeniously conceived and laboriously executed plea for the postponement of a difficult question of interpretation and a far-reaching question of national policy until Congress meets or the courts have a case. It settles nothing, except that nothing will be done just now by the Hon. LYMAN J. GAGE in the way of an enforcement sure to offend powerful interests.

Some statesmen rather like to take bulls by the horns. Judge McKenna is not one of them. But he is a past expert in the art of covering up his mind.

The question thus ably postponed will press itself urgently upon the attention of Congress at the next session. Senator ELKINS, for one, is not likely to sit still and let it be forgotten.

Let Us Have the Whole Truth About Justice Parker.

Justice ALTON B. PARKER clears up one-half of the mystery as to his attitude last November by an explicit statement addressed by him on Monday last to the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee:

"It was entirely right for you to bring to my attention the question which the sincere friends of Mr. Bryan are pressing upon you. I can say to you frankly and sincerely that you can assure them that I voted for the last National nominees of the Democratic party, as they voted for all the regular Democratic nominees since I had a vote."

The other half of the mystery awaits an equally straightforward explanation from Justice PARKER: Was he with the sincere friends of Mr. BRYAN in approval of the Bryan platform when he voted for the Bryan electors?

If he was not, he was a Thacherite, that is to say, a citizen pretending to be honest yet lending a hand to dishonesty, voting against his own conscience, smothering his convictions, assisting to turn over the control of the Government of the United States to repudiators and socialists whose principles he privately detested.

No man capable of Thacherism at such a crisis as that of last year is fit to be Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of New York State.

On the other hand, if Justice ALTON B. PARKER did approve and accept the Chicago platform and the Buffalo platform, if he voted with his conscience when he voted for BRYAN, he is presumably far more respectable than any Thacherite can ever be, but at the same time he is absolutely disqualified from holding the office to which he aspires.

No sincere believer in the doctrines which Mr. BRYAN represents is fit to be elected as Chief Justice of the court of last resort in the Empire State. The people might as well put a GAYNOR there as a PARKER, if Justice PARKER's vote for BRYAN and the Bryan platform was an honest vote.

This is a self-evident proposition, and it requires no discussion.

The alternative is an unpleasant one, but it cannot be escaped. Let us have the whole truth about Justice ALTON B. PARKER's relations to Bryanism.

The Auxiliary Fleet.

The estimates of the Bureau of Ordnance show that for arming the twenty-eight vessels in the merchant marine which have been picked out as suitable for auxiliary cruisers there will be required forty-six 6-inch rifles, twenty-seven 5-inch, and 104 4-inch, besides fifty-four 6-pounders, eight 1-pounders, and 112 machine guns. Even the highest caliber of these are rapid fire guns, and the aggregate would be large addition to our gun power afloat.

Of the 6-inch guns the *Paria* and the *New York* would take twelve each, besides half a dozen 6-pounders, and as many machine guns; the *St. Louis* and *St. Paul* would take eight each, with four 6-pounders and four machine guns; the *Sydney*, of the Pacific Mail line, the remaining six 6-inch, with ten 6-pounders and two machine guns. The 5-inch guns would go to vessels smaller than those of the *Paria* class, and the 4-inch to ships smaller yet.

To show the character of these auxiliaries, in point of armament, we may note that our typical commerce destroyers, the *Columbia* and the *Minneapolis*, carry each one 8-inch, two 6-inch, and eight 4-inch guns in the main battery, with a dozen 6-pounders, four 1-pounders, and four machine guns. The *Newark*, the *Philadelphia*, and the *San Francisco* carry twelve 6-inch guns in the main battery. The *Raleigh* and the *Cincinnati* carry each one 6-inch and ten 5-inch guns. The *Detroit* and the *Marblehead* carry each nine 5-inch guns. The *Bennington* class of gunboats carry half a dozen 6-inch guns, the *Catfish* and *Machias* eight 4-inch, the *Helena* class also eight 4-inch, the six of the *Annapolis* class six 4-inch guns.

It will therefore be seen that, even in the matter of armament, the auxiliary cruisers are an important part of our cruising resources, while the high speed of some of them is well known. The last Congress showed a thorough appreciation of their value by very liberal appropriations, and, as a consequence, many sets of guns and mounts will be ready for them by the be-

ginning of next year. The present Congress should continue this policy, for what remains to be done.

The Common and the Uncommon People.

Bishop PORTER is reported by the *New York Times* as remarking at Boston, last Monday, that he "hopes that SETON LOW will win in the Majority contest." The reason on which the Bishop bases his hope was thus expressed by him: "There is a great move down there in certain social lines, and I have great hopes of the common people." Bishop PORTER would have to give up all hope of this popular government of ours, of Christianity itself, if he did not have "great hopes of the common people." It was "the common people" who "heard him gladly." It is upon "the common people" that our system of government rests, for the uncommon people are the few, mostly gathered together in the Citizens' Union at present, and the common people are the many.

As the "certain social lines" of which the Bishop speaks include nine-tenths of the people of New York, SETON LOW would be elected with a rush unexampled in the history of American politics if they all voted for him. The "plain people" are so many that ABRAHAM LINCOLN concluded that God must love them, else He would not create them. "Common people," Bishop, are partisans. They are partisans because there is so much human nature in them. Only the uncommon people are Mugwumps, the people with artificial sentiments. The great mass of men are partisans through and through, partisans in love and hate, in religion, and in politics. The Hessians of politics who wait outside of parties to get the best bid for their cold-blooded and calculating support are as few as they are unpopular. Human nature abhors a vacuum in the region of the heart.

That is a truth demonstrated every day, and, of all men, the Christian clergy should proceed upon it as an incontrovertible and eternal fact. Because of it Bishop PORTER's "hopes that SETON LOW will win in the Majority contest" will be disappointed bitterly by the return on election night.

As the "certain social lines," within which his scattering vote will be included, will stop short of "the common people" of genuine and warm and vital and unartificial human nature. They will take in all the prizes, however, and for that reason the candidacy of SETON LOW might serve a useful purpose. It would enable the "common people" to count the uncommon people.

The Strategic Waters South of Us.

The parallel which Capt. MAHAN draws, in *Harper's Magazine*, between the Mediterranean and the Caribbean Sea, as strategic areas, needs only to be stated to show its force. That both are land-graft seas, that each is interposed between two great continents, that each is bordered by an isthmus of transcendent importance in the world's plans of interoceanic commerce, are features obvious at a glance. There are other points of resemblance, too, and of course certain points of contrast; but the matter of importance for our country is that, while the highest strategic value of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea is perhaps yet to be practically developed, we ought to dominate those waters.

The Gulf and the Caribbean Sea are clearly separated by the projection of two peninsulas, Florida from the north and Yucatan from the south, while between Cuba stretches across two hundred miles of distance. The central point of commercial importance for the Gulf is the mouth of the Mississippi and for the Caribbean the Isthmus. The former is already ours, and we are bound by treaty to assure safe transit over the latter within a certain area, and are now planning to cut a canal through Nicaragua which we shall control.

The additional points which Capt. MAHAN mentions as of leading strategic consequence are Havana, Key West, and the coasts; Havana, Cienfuegos, and Santiago de Cuba in Cuba; Kingston in Jamaica; San Juan Bay, St. Thomas, Martinique, and Santa Lucia, as we follow the chain of the Antilles eastward; then, on the southern shore of the Caribbean, the island of Curaçao, Cartagena, Colon, and the Chiriqui Lagoon; finally, off Yucatan, the island of Mujeres.

Pensacola's value is in being an ultimate naval base, which Key West could not be, because it is a small island without resources, although its advanced position makes it effective for the daily needs of a fleet, such as ammunition and coal. Pensacola and the mouth of the Mississippi also provide two bases for our Gulf coast line, a distinct advantage, the only bad feature being that they are too near, and so would allow a strong enemy to work both without great dispersal of his fleet.

Santa Lucia and Martinique are the chief eastward positions of Great Britain and France respectively, although adjacent islands might aid, as, for example, Antigua, which might play a part toward Santa Lucia like that of Pensacola to New Orleans. But Cuba, 600 miles long and half as large again as Ireland, not only is unique in size among the islands of the Caribbean and the Gulf, but has the advantage in shape of allowing supplies for the ships to be carried safely from point to point by land, whereas an enemy's fleet might have long distances to travel between the same points. Jamaica has but one-tenth the size of Cuba, but is enough of a power to give our strategic value of Cuba, as Capt. MAHAN explains, might be extremely great. On the other hand, he shows that Jamaica is of special superiority in relation to the Isthmus, and Kingston is an excellent harbor and station.

The advantages of the Chiriqui Lagoon were thoroughly made known when our Government, some years ago, considered the project of acquiring it. Midway between Greytown and Colon, it is well situated both to the Panama and the Nicaragua canal routes; but everything would have to be created there, in taking it for a naval base. Colon's importance is of course obvious, while Cartagena, 300 miles eastward, with its good harbor, is of strategic value. Curaçao has a fine harbor, which might be made impregnable, but so long as it belongs to Holland it is likely to be eliminated from consequence in war. Mujeres Island is on the Yucatan Passage, the one road from all the Gulf ports to the Caribbean and the Isthmus. But neutrality may be expected of it as of Curaçao, because it belongs to Mexico; and in any case its anchorage is barely tolerable and it is without defenses. In fact, Cuba has no rival in Mujeres for the control of the Yucatan Passage, as it has none in natural strength and resources for the control of the Florida Strait.

San Juan Bay and St. Thomas, for the so-

quisition of which our country has at times taken steps, would possess, in other hands, very high potential strategic consequence, the former being on the Mona Passage and the latter on the Anegada Passage, as Kingston and Santiago de Cuba are on the Windward Passage; and certainly a superior navy, resting on the two latter points, could greatly harass the path to the Isthmus. Our lack of useful harbors on so great a portion of the long Florida peninsula is a disadvantage.

On the whole, the most striking "single position" in the Caribbean Sea Capt. MAHAN considers to be Jamaica. But when the position, as well as the products of Cuba are realized, this really becomes preponderant, and it brings both "quantity and quality." Capt. MAHAN lingers upon the comparison between these two islands, mainly to make it still clearer that Cuba possesses the greater advantages, and indeed has "no military rival among the islands of the world, except Ireland." He does not add that Cuba ought never to be held by a naval power hostile to the United States, but that conclusion may suggest itself.

The Equinoxes and the Jubilee Envoy.

The *Tribune* of Sunday contained a leading article full of tenderness and poetry on "The Season of Equinoxes." Its style, its pastoral imagery, and its hopeful moral tone reveal its author. It is signed, so to speak, with the unwritten name of the Hon. WHITEHEAD REID. It shows him standing at the front door of Ophir Farm, gazing alternately at the almanac and at the landscape, and distributing an indulgent, though saddened, smile between the two. Not often is the public permitted to hear the reflections of a retired diplomatist upon what Mr. REID felicitously calls "equinoctial circumstances."

Mr. Low.

The complications in which Mr. LOW's mistaken candidity has already involved him are far from trifling, but they will become more numerous, more galling, and infinitely more damaging every day that he fails to see that the weightiest of the various obligations which he has upon him to withdraw himself from his canvass for Mayor.

Mr. LOW's influence upon the great anti-Tammany body, the Republican organization, has been to disunite it. It has been made plain that he possesses no unifying force whatever. His relation to the Republican party, arising from his attitude past and present, has been too slight to command the respect or allegiance of that organization, but strong enough to serve as a pretext for a bitter Republican faction to renew its cut-throat warfare with him at the front. Factionalism within the Republican lines has given to Mr. LOW substantially the whole of his semblance of political strength.

Instead of arousing and solidifying the anti-Tammany forces, the effect of Mr. LOW's ambition has been to split and weaken them. More than that, it has at the same time tended to discredit the party which stands between the Government and Tammany, both by direct assault and by showing Bryanism the friendliness of neutrality.

Mr. LOW's clear vision of the situation should not be blurred by the pleasurable thought that a man who can create the disturbance that he has created is necessarily a personage for consideration. The most pitiful beggar can make himself the cynosure of all humanity, and perhaps change the destiny of nations by raising his hand successfully against the King. Destruction is easy to all.

A becoming degree of modesty, a creditable amount of common sense, and an unalloyed desire to be of what public service a man's circumstances allow, will tell Mr. LOW to retire and to cease to obscure by his own person the light of the principles on which the safety of the entire country to-day depends. If you cannot do good, at least do no harm. You have known, to a certain distinction, and half-madly inebriated, "at least don't do harm."

The denunciation of the British commercial treaties with Germany and Belgium, which was brought about by Sir WILLIAM LAMONT, and which for a time set a single dissenting voice, those Conservatives are more or less avowed protectionists approved of each as the first step toward the creation of a commercial union between Great Britain and her colonies, which would be protection in a new guise. The Liberals were equally pleased, inasmuch as they regard commercial treaties of any kind as alien to the spirit of free trade. Now, however, that the tremendous proportions of the trade affected have begun to be considered, not a few thoughtful Englishmen seem disposed to view the new policy with misgiving as being, at best, a leap in the dark. One of these is the well-known statistician, Mr. M. G. MULLHALL, who has compiled some striking data relating to the subject for the *Contemporary Review*.

The total British Empire falls short, it seems, of \$100,000,000. On the other hand, the commercial dealings between the British Empire on the one and Germany and Belgium on the other, have an annual value of \$595,099,000. No one can examine the figures showing the trade relations between Germany and the British Empire in the last ten years without recognizing that Germany is a powerful factor in the development of British commerce. The value of British trade with Germany in 1885 was about \$270,000,000; in 1895 it had risen to \$410,000,000. In other words, British dealings with Germany had increased in a single decade 52 per cent., while the whole trade of the British Empire had risen only 14 per cent. It is also to be noted that Germany buys from British subjects 50 per cent. more than they buy from her; consequently, there were any ground for jealousy, on the old theory of the balance of trade, it would be on the German side. Only by the United States is Germany surpassed in the amount of traffic with the British Empire.

We pass to Belgium, which, as Mr. MULLHALL points out, is one of the most prosperous commercial nations in Europe, her foreign commerce being equal to \$100 per inhabitant, against \$35 in Germany, and \$90 in the United Kingdom. These figures are the more surprising for the reason that Belgium has scarcely any mercantile navy of her own, about 70 per cent. of her commerce being carried on by means of British shipping. She is said to pay British shipowners about \$7,500,000 a year to do the larger portion of her carrying trade. No less than 30 per cent. of her total commerce is with the British Empire. The aggregate value of Belgium's trade with British subjects in 1875 was \$143,500,000; in 1895 it had risen to \$184,500,000. There had been, in twenty years, a gain of 28 per cent. in the direct trade between Belgium and the United Kingdom is brought out by comparing the dealings with Great Britain of various countries per head of their population. These amounts for Belgium to \$880; for

the United States, to \$152; for France, to \$140; for Germany, to \$88. Curiously enough, although Belgium is regarded as one of England's greatest rivals in hard-ware manufactures, Englishmen export to her twice as much of this class of goods as she sends them.

Mr. MULLHALL's conclusion is that any stipulations in the new treaties to be substituted for those recently denounced which shall have the effect of checking the existing currents of trade between Germany and Belgium on the one hand and the British Empire on the other would strike at the vital interests of the British people. Their trade with Germany is greater at the present time than with any other country of Europe, and forms 22 per cent. of British dealings with the European Continent. As regards Belgium, most of her carrying trade is done, as we have seen, by British subjects, who possess, moreover, no large a proportion of her commerce that she is, in a mercantile sense, almost a colony of their own. Finally, the aggregate amount of trade between the British Empire on the one hand and Germany and Belgium on the other rose from \$436,000,000 in 1885 to \$595,000,000 in 1895, an increase of 37 per cent., whereas the trade of the world rose only 16 per cent. in the interval. No wonder that Lord RUSSEL, the predecessor of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN in the office of Secretary for the Colonies, used to denounce the German and Belgian treaties, on the ground that it was too serious a step to be taken merely for the purpose of promoting the trade of the mother country with her colonies.

Formerly such a movement as the Bryanism movement would have been costly—in money, I mean; and they are too poor to stand such an expense. But under the present ballot system the expense is light. There are no booths to build, no tickets to print, no canvassers to employ, no more than one hundred under the old system. A little money to hire halls and print handbills, and they are ready to go. They are not so much as they were, but they are not so few. Look out for a red-hot Bryanism movement if you do not come out to meet it. It is not a joke. FORTY YEARS IN POLITICS. NEW YORK, Sept. 21.

LIEUT. STANWORTH'S RELEASE.

Acting Secretary Roosevelt's Release of the Court That Refused to Try Him.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—The Navy Department has published the order in the case of Lieut. Charles S. Stanworth, U. S. Navy, who was released from duty on board the *Adams* at Port Angeles, Washington. Mention of the restoration of Lieut. Stanworth to duty was made in *THE SUN* this week. He was released by the court-martial on the plea that he had been suspended by the Secretary of the Navy by Commander Gibson of the *Adams*. The Navy Department declined to agree to the verdict on the ground that the suspension meant merely that Lieut. Stanworth was relieved of duty pending trial. The court-martial adhered to its finding, and Acting Secretary Roosevelt issued a public rebuke, which is contained in the published order.

"The court, clearly erred in this case. In the first instance in sustaining the plea of the accused, it failed to consider the fact that the court-martial was composed of officers who were not competent to try a case of this kind. It is difficult to understand the decision of the court-martial, and it is difficult to understand the action of the Navy Department in releasing the accused. The court-martial was composed of officers who were not competent to try a case of this kind. It is difficult to understand the decision of the court-martial, and it is difficult to understand the action of the Navy Department in releasing the accused. The court-martial was composed of officers who were not competent to try a case of this kind. It is difficult to understand the decision of the court-martial, and it is difficult to understand the action of the Navy Department in releasing the accused. The court-martial was composed of officers who were not competent to try a case of this kind. 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